

## COBURN AMENDMENT 681: REFORM TANF FUNDING FORMULA

This amendment would call for the TANF funding formula to be revised, since it has not been updated since the program's creation in 1996.

- When TANF was created in 1996, Congress combined many existing welfare programs into one. Each state's allotment of TANF funding (\$16.5 billion, which has remained at the same level since) was based on how it spent more in the years prior to 1996.
- **This formula has not been updated since 1996, though state poverty demographics have changed dramatically.** The program has been reauthorized two times.
- Some states now receive over \$2,800 per poor child, while others receive less than \$500 per poor child
- As the Brookings Institution notes, "There is little justification for the dramatically uneven levels of funding per low-income child."<sup>[2]</sup>
- Congress has willingly avoided reengineering the formula to avoid upsetting some states that will inevitably lose out.

---

<sup>[2][2]</sup> <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2002/4/welfare%20weaver/pb22.pdf>